

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005

ILLEGAL MINING

Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 15 workers including some women were killed on September 29, 2005 in an incident of subsidence of a mine due to illegal mining carried out in the area under the jurisdiction of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including compensation paid to the next of kin of victims;
- (c) whether loss worth crores of rupees is incurred every year due to illegal mining and pilferage of coal in the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL);
- (d) whether the above mentioned companies of the Coal India Limited have failed in checking illegal mining and smuggling of coal;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check smuggling of coal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (t) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 306 for answer on 14-12-2005 regarding illegal mining.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The Officer Incharge of Rajrappa Police Station in his report dated 29-9-2005 has mentioned that two bodies were recovered from the accident site when a portion of mine roof collapsed at Section-I quarry of Rajrappa Project of Central Coalfields Ltd. near Hazaribagh, Jharkhand while illegal mining was being done on 29.9.2005. The Police has registered a case vide Rajrappa Police outpost (Police Station, Ramgarh), case No. 399/05 dated 29-9-2005 under sections 286, 287, 338, 379, 304(A) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 30

(ii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the matter is under enquiry by the police. Coal companies are not required to pay any compensation in case of accidents due to illegal mining.

(c): Illegal mining is carried out stealthily and clandestinely from abandoned/closed/disused mines/non-working part of mine or from outcrop regions. As such it is not possible to have full details of such instances. Similarly theft of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the location from and quantity of coal that might have been stolen.

(d): Law and order is State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining and pilferage of coal. Coal companies invite the attention of concerned state governments to such incidents from time to time for necessary action.

(e) & (f): Following steps have been taken to check the smuggling of coal:

(i) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/sealing/blasting of the old/abandoned/exposed coal faces in phased manner.

(ii) Conducting raids/intensive patrolling at sensitive areas jointly with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)/Internal Security and State Administration.

(iii) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with District Administration, every month.

(iv) Check posts have been installed on the main roads manned with armed Home Guards & State Police to check illegal trafficking of coal.

(v) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.

(vi) FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) with local Thana against illegal mining and pilferage/theft of coal.